Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method of decreasing the growth rate or reproduction rate of wild-type *Porphyromonas gingivalis* in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal at least one dose of the mutant of a non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* ~~according to claim 1~~.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the administration comprises injecting the mammal with the at least one dose of the non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* via a route selected from the group consisting of a subcutaneous route, an intravenous route and an intramuscular route.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the dose administered is between about $1x10^3$ and $1x10^7$ of the mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* per kg of body weight of the mammal.

7. (currently amended) A method of decreasing the growth rate or reproduction rate of wild-type *Porphyromonas gingivalis* in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal at least one dose of a non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis*.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a human. ~~accession number 202109 to the mammal.~~

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of administering comprises injecting the mammal with the at least one dose of a non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* via a route selected from the group consisting of a subcutaneous route, an intravenous route and an intramuscular route.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of administering comprises injecting the [mutant] mammal with the at least one dose of a non-virulent, *recA* defective mutant of *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, wherein the dose is between about a $1x10^3$ and $1x10^7$ bacteria per kg of body weight.